

Confidential ! 4658

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(23) LINGEN/Ems, Germany,
British Zone.

30 July, 1949.

To Colonel Robert A. SCHOW
Deputy Director of Intelligence
EUOON, Frankfurt / M.

Sir,

Having got your name and address from Colonel W.E. Shipp, I dare to send you the copies of my letter to Mr. Shipp, of his answer and of my second letter, for your kind consideration.

I do not know if this second letter has reached Colonel Shipp, in any case I have no answer on it. My first letter I posted in American Zone, the second one, against my intention, in British Zone.

Having got here not a single friend among the Americans and having got no time more to wait for Mr. Shipp's possible answer, I dare to ask you for an advice. I will tell you here some details of my wartime activity and I ask you to say me -

- whether I, having such a past, may have some aspects to be found suitable for emigration to the States, or not;
- may I tell this full story to the American Consul in Wentorf Emigration Center (probably I will have to do this to his German clerks), to whom one has to swear on oath that one has given full and true information on himself?

I would not like to give off my and my wife's jobs here in DF camp for going to Wentorf, to break off the life here, when it is clear that the American Consul can not, or will not like to accept us because of the trickiness of my story, because of my being an ex-soldier who has "helped" the Germans voluntarily, and therefore will send us back.

I have written to Colonel Shipp of my wish to be employed in your mine special branch of activity, but now, having received no answer from him, I do not dare to come back on this matter. But I still dare to ask you, a friend of Colonel Shipp whom I know as a magnificent person, you, a senior officer and specialist in branch where my story too belongs to, for a benevolent, competent and frank advice.

Here the story is: As an Estonian officer of General Staff I ought to be deported by the Russians already in 1940/41. But I had luck, I was not.... I think, my frankness has saved me. I am sometimes roughly frank, when the situation and the interests of work do need this. But I think that I can be "diplomatic" too, when needed. I should hope Colonel Shipp can affirm that my appearance and behaviour in the II Bureau of the Estonian G.H.Q. was not the worst one. Colonel Shipp has seen me so many times on work in office and on different parties "on duty" and "off duty", with liquor floating and without liquor... I was serving my country, I think I have done it well. I was captain then, but charged with the task of an elder Major or Lt-Colonel. My chiefs have given good attests on me, although I was frank.

In 1939 the Russians came to Estonia. I was "diplomatic" up to June 1940. But then the situation asked frankness and I told them that I will never accept their wicked proposals. They did not take it seriously, did not arrest me immediately. I had to flee, it was my luck that I could! The Germans, the "Abwehr" of the Wehrmacht, helped me and my family out of the Russian persecution, in a time of the thickest friendship between the USSR and the Nazi-Germany in July 1940... I was then ready to co-operate even with the devilry when this would have helped my country!

I was helped into good position with the "I.G. Farbenindustrie" in Berlin, where I studied the Russian industrie, using my knowledge of the

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Russian language and in techniks. In June 1941 I started my work with the "Abwehr I" together with the Finnish in Helsinki. I was offered the German citizenship and the position of a German staff-officer, this was done 3 times between Oct 1940 and Nov 1941, but I refused, I preferred to remain a good Estonian officer. I was not a modest and silent worker whether in Helsinki nor later in Tallinn. I have told my German and Finnish chiefs so many unpleasant things which I found necessary to report in interest of the work. Politically too, I was an "enfant terrible". I have told my chiefs that I hate the Nazi-politics, that this is quite wrong; I have written long reports on it - there were so many possibilities to get rid of me, but I was not betried, in contrary, I was helped to enter the Finnish Army to have thus a little more security against the Nazi-Germans, - I was estimated because of my work. My family which came against the advices of my chiefs back from Berlin to Tallinn in summer 1942, was helped out for the second time when the Russians reoccupied Estonia in September 1944. This was done although I did not stand then more in the service of the Abwehr.

I quit the Finnish army in summer 1944, a few days before the Finnish-Russian armistice was settled, and then I was forced to German-Estonian military formation. I was glad I was appointed Estonian Liaison Officer with the Commander in Chief of the German Army Group NARVA operating in North Estonia, a position where I could and did help my Estonian citizens in the best way. There I stood up to the end of September 1944 when the German troops were withdrawn from Estonia. Then I linked again the "Abwehr I" and tried to help my homeland by this way up to 4th May 1945 when I passed the front line...

I worked honestly all the time. My chiefs did know quite exactly that I was not working for Germany but for Estonia. But we had the same enemy in the East, the Communists, so there was no misunderstanding between me and my chiefs. It is true that the period from January to May 1945 I worked simultaneously on two ways, on both for Estonia, by one together with the Germans, by the other, going quite secretly only my own way, which I intended to use to the benefit of the Western Allies, whom I have always taken for friends of my suffering Estonia, notwithstanding their temporary forced collaboration with the inhuman Communists. I do not find having betried the Germans by doing this double work. It was evident to me that Germany will collapse, and I had to take the necessary steps so that my work would not collapse together with the Germans; Estonia was still in need for help, and then this could come only from the democratic Western Allies.

As a result of this work, I had, as to my estimation, in April/May 1945 very serious and valuable purposes to try to contact the Western Allies. My wish was to contact the Americans. I sent my family and my scouts, from Nord-East coming, over the Elbe in direction where the Americans were advancing (in the environs of Wendemark near Verben in the great bow of the Elbe). But alas, the wireless connection I had to this group of scouts broke off. As I learned later from my wife, my two scouts have reported to the Americans in Wendemark in April 1945, but I did not know this. Having lost the contact to these scouts, I passed the frontline on 4th of May, 1945 and reported to the first of the Allies I could meet, the British. Despite of the good references I had, I was misunderstood and put in prison. It took me 15 months before I was cleared and set free. Then I joined my family which, after the withdrawal of the American troops from the Elbe was helped a little westward and thus escaped the Russian occupation.

Having opened all my cards to the British, having been 15 months under investigation and some 6 months more "put on ice" - living quietly with my family in a DP camp, I got a little disappointed, although I estimated

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the precautions the British had to use. I have been frank to the British too. May be this was found uneasy. They did not need me immediately, they had not seen me working, they "put me on ice", they wanted to give me a good time, just to have me fresh when they once might need me...

But I was not interested in resting. I did not flee from my country, I did not pass the frontline only to save my life and to have a good time somewhere abroad. I fled because I wanted to do my duty, to fight against the Communists, the worst enemies of my country, of the whole mankind! Therefore I brook the last relation there remained between me and the British authorities from the time of my investigation. I did not begin anything on my own hand, I just wanted to be free for trying to renew the contact with the Americans, which I was looking for in 1945, from whom I hoped and still hope the most efficiency and help against the Communists for the whole mankind and thus for my country too. I then still waited nearly a year, and having not more been contacted by the British, I wrote to Colonel Shipp the letters you have now in your hands (in copies).

I am 45 now and I have not got years to waste for resting now, when the Estonians are suffering under the Communists. I can rest, when still alive, after the Communists will be beaten. I know that the stake of one man can not be of special value when compared with the immensity of the struggle in way against the Communists, but I still think that I could be of some use in this fight, when used on the right place and before rust has done his work. I have got zeal and persistence for this work. But when this is not wanted or impossible, - I will do it as general worker too.

I am aware of the danger I am taking on me and upon my family when sending you this letter. I have not lied anything to IRO when under "screening". I have answered all the questions I was asked. I was glad not been asked any questions I would have not known to answer to the satisfaction of the interrogator and of the interwued. Publishing of this letter would bring the imminent expulsion of my family and of me from the care and maintenance of IRO and thus of the possibility of emigration wether to USA or somewhere else, as well as many inconveniences with the British authorities.

But, as said, I am frank and I find myself obliged to be frank with you too, to tell you the truth, and thus - I stand fully to your disposition and at your mercy.

In case you will really find some interest in my case and would like help me with your advice, I should be very obligated to you and I am ready to give any further details on my activities. In any case I should be much obliged to you if you would let inform me in a harmless way that you have got this letter and what is your reaction on it.

As said in my letter to Colonel Shipp, I am not quite sure that my correspondence is not under local control here at Lingen. Therefore I shall post this letter somewhere in American Zone. Perhaps I could have your note as if coming this time from a German friend of mine named Gerhard Zimmermann, and when there will be in a term for meeting, then add up with an X equal to "minus two days", e.g. on 7th Aug 10 h 30 would mean on 5th of Aug at the same time in your H.Q. or address to be learned on the main entrance to your H.Q.

Yours very sincerely



P.S. I apologize for the possible typing faults, I am not a typist and I have done it as nightwork.